

## CAPSULE SUMMARY

Survey # F-3-154

Approximate date ca. 1860

Street Address Opossumtown Pike at Willow Brook Farm

Town, State Frederick, Maryland 21701

private x, public     

The farmstead at Willow Brook Farm was originally accessed by a straight farm lane leading in an easterly direction from Opossumtown Pike at its junction with Willow Brook Farm. The farm access lane has been replaced with the network of streets constructed to serve the Willow Brook subdivision now under construction. The farmstead consists of a two story five bay brick house dating from ca. 1860 and a frame early 20th century wagon shed. A stone end bank barn, an equipment shed and a ca. 1920-30 dairy barn and milk house of rock-faced concrete block, once part of the complex have been demolished. The property is located approximately 1/4 mile east of the road with the house facing west, toward the road and the outbuilding sites immediately north of the house.

The house at Willow Brook Farm is a very intact example of a prosperous farmer's residence of the third quarter of the 19th century. Most significant about the property is its pristine interior which includes original paint finishes in several rooms, original door hardware throughout and rare examples of surviving curtain and interior blind hardware. All woodwork, doors, floors and mantelpieces remain intact as well, which is unusual in houses owned by people with the financial wherewithal to have made changes and alterations over the years. Changes and modifications for this dwelling have been limited for the most part to the north addition, and to re-bricking the two north fireplaces in the main section. First floor woodwork in the north of the main house was grain painted to resemble oak, probably about 1890-1910.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-3-154

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Willow Brook Farm

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number Opossumtown Pike at Willow Brook Farm

☐ not for publication

city, town Frederick

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Frederick

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district)	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Frederick Farms LC

street & number 2900 Linden Lane

Suite 291

telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring

state and zip code

Maryland 20910

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

Liber 1897

street & number West Patrick Street

Folio 209

city, town Frederick

state Maryland 21701

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-3-154

### Condition

☐ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☒ good        ☐ ruins  
☐ fair         ☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved        date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary Description

The farmstead at Willow Brook Farm was originally accessed by a straight farm lane leading in an easterly direction from Opossumtown Pike at its junction with Willow Brook Road. The farm access lane has been replaced with the network of streets constructed to serve the Willow Brook subdivision now under construction. The farmstead consists of a two story five bay brick house dating from ca. 1860 and a frame early 20th century wagon shed. A stone end bank barn, an equipment shed and a ca. 1920-30 dairy barn and milk house of rock-faced concrete block, once part of the complex have been demolished. The property is located approximately 1/4 mile east of the road with the house facing west, toward the road and the outbuilding sites immediately north of the house.

### General Description

The Willow Brook farmhouse is a two story, five bay brick building resting on fieldstone foundations. The walls have a facing of all stretcher bricks and are painted white. Both the front (west) and rear (east) facades are formally arranged with five bays and a central entrance. The west-facing front is unusual for farmhouses in mid-Maryland which typically face south or southeast.

Windows have six over six light sash within narrow frames, beneath wooden lintels. Most windows retain their original sash and glass. They have pairs of louvered shutters. The fenestration pattern at the rear of the building was made formal and symmetrical like the front, although the rear entrance is treated much more simply than the front one. The main entrance has a two-leafed door, with each leaf having a long vertical panel. The door is surrounded by a transom and sidelights with diamond-shaped panes. A one-bay entrance porch supported by square columns shelters the entrance. There was also a one-bay shed-roofed rear porch, but it was removed ca. 1996.

Attached to the west end of the house is a two story, two bay shed-roofed kitchen addition which appears to date from the 1870s. The east end of the north wall of this section has a recessed double porch. Later partitions, paneling and details of the interior of this addition have been removed recently. The addition contains two large rooms per story, but its stone foundations do not match its current configuration, revealing that the foundations were for an older building now gone. The foundations included a chimney pier, although there is no fireplace in the addition. Also fragments of 18th century pottery and glass were found during excavations of the cellar. In addition, two doors at the second story level of the addition have six raised panels and predate the rest of the building. Until recently, this portion of the house held the kitchen and bathroom.

The house is roofed with standing seam sheet metal over earlier wooden shingles. There are double brick chimneys inside each end and brick parapet walls.

The interior of the main section of the house is divided formally with two rooms on either side of a broad central stair and entrance hall. The staircase is along the south wall of the hall, set well back from the front door. The newel post and balusters are turned. To the north of the hallway are the more formal rooms, separated by a large opening with a flat architrave with plain corner blocks. Mantlepieces are matched with panels with multiple receding fields. Windows have similar architraves with paneled dadoes beneath the sills. Woodwork in these rooms, the hallway and the addition has been grain painted to resemble oak, a treatment which probably was done about the turn of the 20th century.

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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The two rooms to the south of the hallway have matched mantelpieces with molded trim in the form of shallow Gothic arches. In the rear room at the southeast corner of the house is a narrow enclosed stair, rising parallel to the main stair. Apparently constructed at the same time as the rest of this section of the house, it seems to have been a servant's stairs leading to separate quarters on the second floor and to the cellar accessed by a flight of steps beneath the main staircase. Original mahogany grain painting remain on doors and trim in the southeast room.

The second floor is divided into five rooms, two on each side of the hallway and one at the front (west) end of the hallway. The second floor south rooms are appointed similarly to those beneath them on the first floor. They retain original paints, peg rails and hardware. The paint colors are three-tone, "drab" (a 19th century term for medium brownish-grey), putty and white. Baseboards are a darker brownish grey. A west window in the north room has two porcelain knobs in its jamb meant for wrapping the cord from curtains or roller blinds. They are original to the house and are rare survivals.

The house appears to be in good condition despite its having been vacant for some time. Other buildings on the property included a large stone bank barn, a tile silo, a rock-faced concrete block and frame dairy barn with a gambrel roof, probably dating from the 1920s or '30s, and a semi attached milk house, also of rock-faced concrete block. All of these buildings have been removed. Surviving is a frame corn crib and wagon shed. The wagon shed has open gable ends to allow for wagon access and maximum air circulation for the side corn storage bins. It is a timber framed building resting on field stone piers. The framing is mortised and tenoned with pegged joints. The framing members have circular saw marks. A combination of wooden materials side the building, including German siding and board and batten. Doors of narrow tongue and groove boards hung on a roller tracks have been added to the front and rear of the building. The corn crib/wagon shed appears to date from the early 20th century. The framing and finish materials may have been recycled from another building.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-154

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

#### Summary

The house at Willow Brook Farm is a very intact example of a prosperous farmer's residence of the third quarter of the 19th century. Most significant about the property is its pristine interior which includes original paint finishes in several rooms, original door hardware throughout and rare examples of surviving curtain and interior blind hardware. All woodwork, doors, floors and mantelpieces remain intact as well, which is unusual in houses owned by people with the financial wherewithal to have made changes and alterations over the years. Changes and modifications for this dwelling have been limited for the most part to the north addition, and to re-bricking the two north fireplaces in the main section. First floor woodwork in the north of the main house was grain painted to resemble oak, probably about 1890-1910.

#### Historic Context

Frederick County and central Maryland in general were settled during the second half of the 18th century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1720s. Although land was initially held by English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland, the majority of settlers who actually lived in Frederick County were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling was prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and adjoining Washington County led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19th century. During the Civil War the allure of the agricultural prosperity of central Maryland influenced Robert E. Lee's plan to invade Maryland in the late summer of 1862. The greater region was the nation's bread basket until large scale grain production in the Midwest overtook local production in the later 19th century.

#### Resource History

On both the Frederick County Atlas of 1873 and the 1858 Isaac Bond map, this property is shown as belonging to D. Glaze. The house is apparently located just west of the site of Franklin Mills which were on the east side of Tuscarora Creek. The mill and its surrounding farm was the homestead of the Cronise family. Joseph Cronise eventually owned this farm as well. The appearance of the house suggests that it was built during

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the third quarter of the 19th century, probably in the 1860s.

Willow Brook Farm's history seems consistent with the physical evaluation of the house. The property was purchased by David Glaze on February 18, 1853. He purchased approximately 237 acres from William Ross for \$16,030.16. The relatively high price suggests that improvements were already present. The excavated foundations beneath the west half of the addition affirm that an earlier building preceded the present house.

William Ross was a trustee appointed to sell the property for Sophia Fitzhugh who had received the farm from Benjamin Fitzhugh and his wife (presumably Sophia's parents), on January 16, 1849. Benjamin Fitzhugh purchased the property from Henry Schley on June 2, 1848. It was part of the land grant "Taskers Chance."

David Glaze and his wife Elizabeth owned the property until his death, when it was sold by his heirs to Joseph Cronise, on March 6, 1873 for \$21,611.08. At this time the farm contained the same acreage, 237. The property remained in the Cronise family until an equity court proceeding among various members of the family resulted in sale of the property on November 10, 1924 for \$15,587.10. By this transaction, however, the acreage was reduced to 124 acres and 32 perches. The purchaser in 1924 was C. Raymond Crum. The property remained in the Crum family until the present subdivision which began in 1993.

The present house was most likely built by David Glaze during the 20 year period of his ownership between 1853 and 1873. (Deed references: Liber 1897, folio 209, May 3, 1993.; Liber 1095, folio 187, Aug. 31, 1979; Liber 358, folio 255, May 22, 1926; Liber 358, folio 254, May 22, 1926; Liber 350, folio 385, November 19, 1924; Liber CM9, folio 534, March 6, 1873; Liber ESI, folio 615, February 18, 1853; Liber WBT, folio 608, January 6, 1849; Liber WBT7, folio 258, June 2, 1848.

### Resource Analysis

The principal significance of this house is its intact architectural quality. It has rare surviving details, such as window and curtain hardware, latches, knobs and window glass. Although the farm house has been detached from its setting and other buildings from its grouping have been eliminated, it appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architecture. The attributed construction date from the third quarter of the 19th century is based on several features from that period which include the all stretcher bond facade, the diamond pane transom and sidelights, the double-leafed front door with single vertical panels, the interior doors with two vertical panels and the mantelpieces with Gothic pointed arch friezes. These features are all characteristic of the third quarter of the 19th century in central Maryland, and are most typical of the 1860s.

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architectural/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Farmstead

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling

Known Design Source: Vernacular, Greek Revival Influence

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Williams, T.J.C. and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, Maryland, 1967.

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code



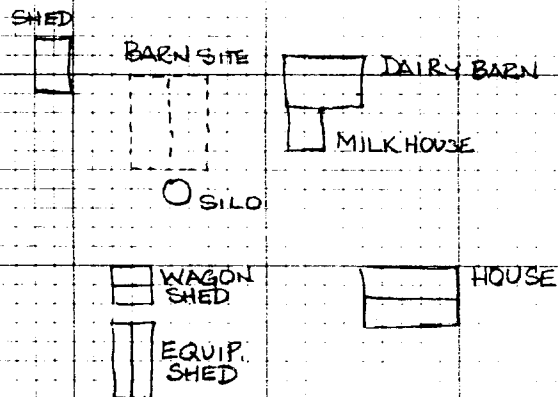
## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian		
organization	Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.	date	July, 1997
street & number	105 N. Potomac Street	telephone	301-739-2070
city or town	Hagerstown	state	Maryland

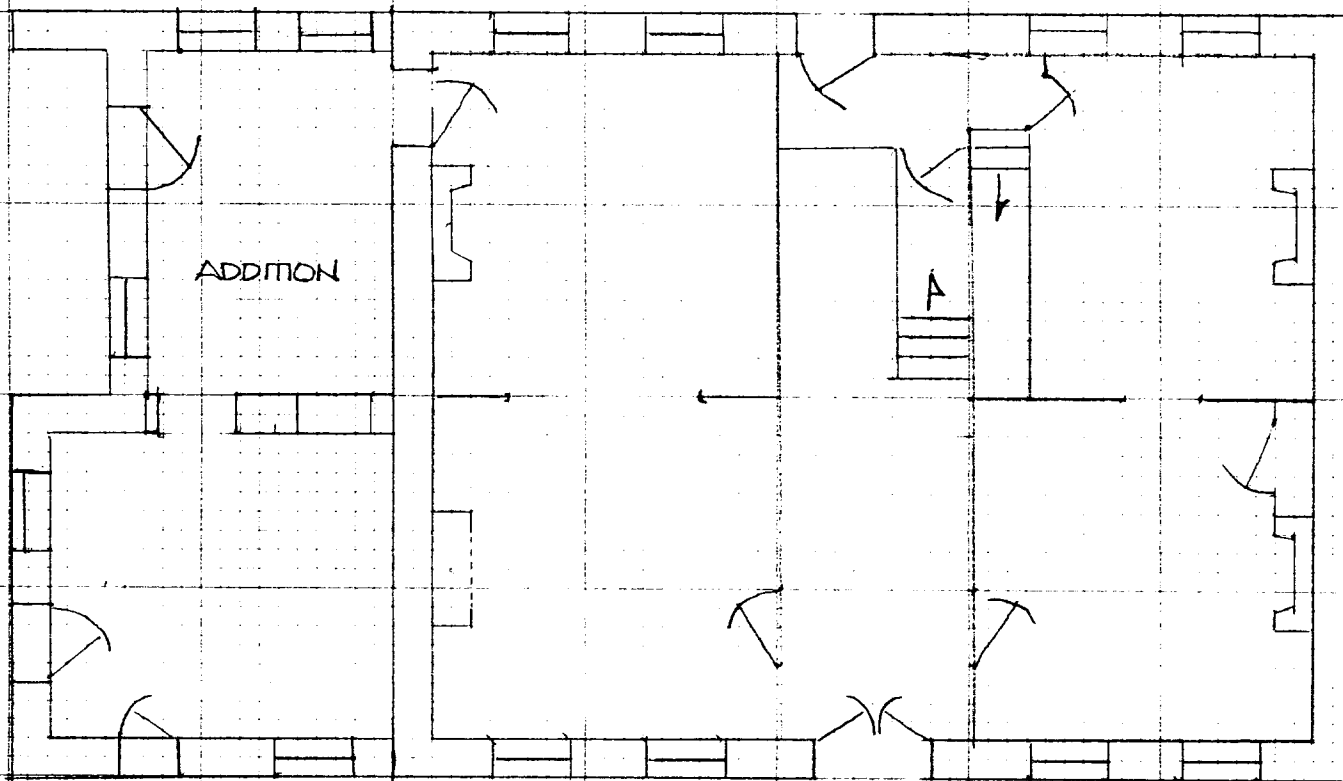
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
People's Resource Center  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7000



APPROXIMATE SITE PLAN  
(OUTBUILDINGS HAVE BEEN  
DEMOLISHED EXCEPT FOR  
WAGON SHED)



APPROXIMATE FLOOR PLAN  
(NOT TO SCALE)

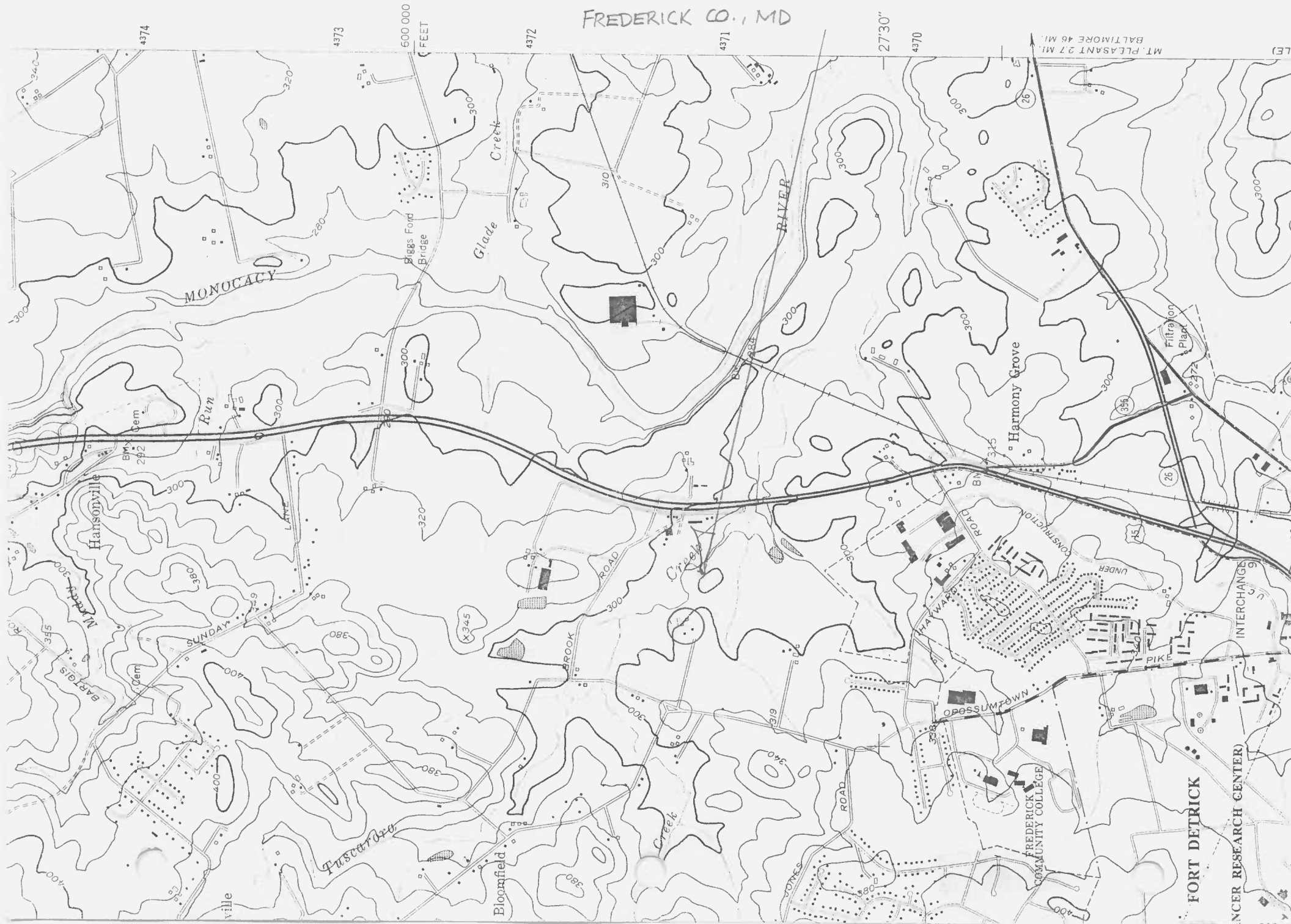
← NORTH

F-3-154  
WILLOW BROOK FARM.  
FREDERICK CO, MD

PSR B/95

FREDERICK QUADRANGLE

F-3-154  
WILLOW BROOK FARM  
FREDERICK CO., MD





F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co., MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. loc. Paula S Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

Front, west elevation, E view

# 1 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co., MD

Photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. cor. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

North elevation, SE view

# 2 of 23





F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co., MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. by Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

E. elevation, W view

#3 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S. Reed & Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

SW view, N+E elevations

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Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Entrance and stair hall

# 5 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick County, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Interior, northwest room, first floor  
looking into northeast room

# 6 of 23





F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

first floor, SW room, grain painted doors (original)

#7 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

back stairs (servants)

# 8 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co., MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

Second floor, northwest room with view into  
northeast room

# 9 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Fredrick Co., MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.  
Hagerstown, MD

Second floor, Northwest room, with original blind  
cord wrap hardware.

# 10 of 23





F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S Reed, Assoc. Inc.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Second floor, southeast with view into southwest room

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F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick County, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. by Paula S. Reed + Assoc., Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Interior, east room, first story addition, looking into  
west room

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F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

cellar foundation beneath addition, possibly 18<sup>th</sup>  
century

#13 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co., MD

photo by P. Reel

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S. Reel and Assoc. Inc.  
Hagerstown, MD

Second floor, north addition

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F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg by Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc

Hagerstown, MD

Second floor, addition

#15 of 23



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Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co. MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. loc. Paula S. Reed & Assoc., Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

Attic, roof structure

#16 of 23



F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co. MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

Corn crib and site of farm buildings, N. view  
from attic.

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Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S. Reed & Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

Corn Crib, NE view, and site of farmbuildings

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F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Corn crib/wagon shed, NW view, S+E elevations

#19 of 23



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Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

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req. loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Corn crib, N+E elevations, SW view

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F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co., MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. loc. Paula S. Reed & Assoc Inc

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Interior, wagon shed

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F-3-154

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

req. by Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Interior, wagon shed

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F-3-15A

Willowbrook Farmhouse

Frederick Co, MD

photo by P. Reed

6/97

neg loc. Paula S. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Interior, corn crib

#23 of 23